



BLOCK 6 FOLLOW UP

“A Good Plan, Violently Executed Now, Is Better Than a Perfect Plan Next Week.”
General George S. Patton

BLOCK PURPOSE:

This block evaluated and encouraged performance through two scenarios:

- Crew mask up and entry into a structure to perform a known rescue.
- Deploying a ladder through multiple obstacles and masking up for a rescue at a window.

Masking up quickly and effectively is a foundational firefighter skill, happens at every fire, and is something that we control. The IPS requirement for masking up is 30 seconds, and the department average for this drill was 28 seconds. That is awesome! Times broken down by shift are listed below on the last page.

Throwing ladders is another essential firefighter skill at all ranks. The scenario presented was designed to force specific techniques, but could be defeated multiple ways. The point of the props and drill was to get you to think about ladders outside of the norm.

The bar continues to be set high, by both veteran members and those fresh from the academy. Great job from all crews. Keep up the training.

MASK UP AND ENTRY TAKEAWAYS:

The overall tempo of masking up, forcing the door, and completing the search was great. The department average time to having the entire crew masked up was 1:30, and average time to having the victim removed was 3:31. Most engineers quickly caught their crew and were able to immediately help with the search, an awesome change from past expectations.

The department mask up average on the ladder drill was 28 seconds. That means that on the entry/search drill we lost about a minute somewhere between the cab and the door that wasn't used to mask up. Some common places where lost time can be found and given back to the citizens:

- Getting and stowing tools. There is no skill sheet for how to get tools out of a cabinet and carry them on your person. Come up with a personal SOG for how you deploy your tools.
- Waiting to mask up until you are at the entry door. Masking up while walking and running, and even being masked up while in the cab, all have their place and can save valuable time.
- Firefighters hesitating to head for the objective to begin evaluating conditions and forcing doors. Make sure your new people understand where and how they are empowered to do their job.

LADDER DRILL WITH MASK UP

This drill created scenarios that don't normally exist at our training tower. The obstacles could be overcome with skills that can be applied to many different scenarios. The majority of people came up with a method to overcome the obstacles, even if they didn't specifically prepare for the scenarios. The three skills needed to quickly and effectively complete the tasks were:

- Manipulating ladder from ground to shoulder
- Moving ladder through horizontal restriction
- Throwing ladder with vertical/overhead restriction

We didn't compile average times for the ladder throw, but the spread was anywhere from 47 seconds to 3 minutes, with most individuals completing the throw around 1:30. Keep in mind what you took away from the drill, and be sure to pass it on when training with your crews in the future.

- Ladder manipulation is all about overcoming gravity on the way up, and controlling it on the way down. Using the building when possible makes both of these easier. Look for creative ways to use the building, curbs etc., especially with taller and heavier ladders.
- There are only so many ways to raise a ladder, but infinite scenarios they can fit into. Distill your ladder skills into techniques and practice throwing tip-first, butt-first, against the path of travel, and with one and two people.
- Look at your tips! When people were struggling with the overhead obstruction, looking at the tip and objective made everything fall into place.

FTO Block 6 Times

Individual Mask Up Drill (Ladders)	Mask Up (min:sec)	Company Deployment Drill (+Force/Search)	Entire Crew Masked Up (from cab)	Time to Victim Out (from cab)
A Shift Average	22		1:27	3:21
B Shift Average	30		1:28	3:26
C Shift Average	33		1:36	3:47
Department Average	28		1:30	3:31
Fastest	12		58	2:27
Slowest	1:15		2:28	5:35
IPS Standard	30			